

**THE RIDDLE OF STUTTERING**—C. S. Bluemel, M.D., The Interstate Publishing Company, Jackson & Van Buren, Danville, Illinois, 1957. 142 pages, hard bound, \$3.50; paper bound, \$1.50, accompanying 4 therapy records, \$3.00.

This book—according to the author—presents his conclusions for the appraisal of the speech correctionist and the stutterer himself. This task is as courageous as it is dangerous. The speech correctionist lacks psychiatric training and lacks therefore the necessary experience in diagnosis and treatment of neurosis. The patient himself will try to find in this book his own emotional story and might identify himself with somebody else's problem instead of finding himself—without a book, but through psychotherapy. To make things more complicated, the author tries to find new meaning in the semantic difference between stuttering and stammering. While the medical speech specialist tries to simplify the situation by eliminating the term "stammering" and by calling the whole syndrome "stuttering," the author proposes to call nonorganized speech, prespeech or speech in the making "stuttering" which can be carried into adult life as subnormal speech function. Nonorganized speech is differentiated from disorganized speech, marked by blocking and called "stammering." While stuttering is considered a developmental deficiency of speech, stammering is called a neurotic disorganization. To the reviewer these theories come close to playing with words and one feels reminded of Mephistopheles in Goethe's *Faust*: "When ideas fail, words come in very handy."

Besides most interesting observations on personality traits of stutterers one finds the wrong statement that stammering seems to be especially common among Germans, a fact which he blames on the mechanical difficulty of the language "for the consonants come in chunks," while there were less stammering in Spain and Italy partly because of the culture in which the language is employed and partly because of the nature of the language. The author forgets the rareness of stuttering in the Chinese and the American Indians which has nothing to do with language but with the child's security within the family.

The author hopes that neuropsychiatry may offer yet help for the problem of stammering and stuttering, although he thinks that Freudian theories seem to be exhausted. He therefore assumes that Freudian theories are static and have reached a dead end! The bibliography is part of a chapter "Retrospect" and does not represent an informative source of historical information. The therapeutic outline is as incomplete. Even the chewing method by Froeschels is not mentioned. Still the ideas of the author are worthwhile for the physician interested in the personality traits of the stutterer.

PAUL J. MOSES, M.D.

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**THE YEAR BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY—1957-1958 Series**—Edited by J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, 1957. 597 pages, \$7.50.

This is the annual compilation of abstracts from the significant literature in this field, edited under the direction of Chicago gynecologist and obstetrician, J. P. Greenhill. The articles abstracted are taken from journals received between July 1956 and July 1957. The material is evenly divided between obstetrical subjects and gynecological ones.

In obstetrics, adequate attention is given to the timely subjects of postmaturity, coagulation defects, and perinatal mortality. Practically all the authoritative literature on these matters is covered. In gynecology, forty-six pages and some thirty articles are devoted to infertility, a not disproportionate ratio. Under operative gynecology, the majority of

articles are concerned with urinary relationships (particularly stress incontinence), demonstrating the increasing attention being given to gynecologic urology in this field. The discussion of malignant tumors occupies approximately one-fourth of the section on gynecology.

A special feature of this edition is an article "Genetic Considerations in the Practice of Ovarian Irradiation for the Treatment of Sterility" by L. B. Russell of the Biology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This short article discusses in general terms some of the genetic aspects of this subject and is recommended reading. It carries a short bibliography.

As usual, the editor's comments add much to this book. He surveys additional pertinent literature not covered by the abstracts. His comments in this edition reflect an increasing awareness of medico-legal implications affecting the specialty.

This book can be recommended to any practitioner working in this field and wishing a handy reference of abstracts of current literature.

KEITH P. RUSSELL, M.D.

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**THE PATHOLOGY AND SURGERY OF THE VEINS OF THE LOWER LIMB**—Harold Dodd, Ch.M. (Liverpool), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital (London) Group; and Frank B. Cockett, M.S. (London), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1956. Distributed in U.S.A. by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1956. 462 pages, \$12.50.

This book is written in a concise and clear manner, and covers admirably the subject of venous disorders of the lower leg. The approach is stimulating and interesting. The experience of the author is rich and well presented. The surgical anatomy of the veins of the leg is presented in a graphic and succinct manner. The pathological physiology of venous disorders of the limb is well discussed. The treatment of varicose veins, varicose ulcers, and phlebitis as recommended by the authors is sound and rewarding. The book can be recommended to anyone interested in a deeper understanding of venous disorders of the lower limb.

VICTOR RICHARDS, M.D.

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**SPEECH CORRECTION AT HOME**—Morris Val Jones, Ph.D., Director, Speech and Reading Clinic, Morrison Center for Rehabilitation. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1957. 138 pages, \$4.75.

This book intended for the family of speech-handicapped individuals is of practical value for physicians who want to place useful material in the hands of the mother of a speech-defective child or the wife of the aphasia patient. It contains a good description of normal and faulty speech development, it describes helpful hints for the improvement of the emotional situation of the stutterer. Exercises for children with cleft palate, open bite, cerebral palsy are given. The laryngectomized patient finds directions for the "do-it-yourself" training of esophageal voice.

The special value of this book is in the encouragement of the family and the patient, but also of the physician that speech therapy is by no means a mystic and magic field which is reserved for members of the guild of a few—certainly nonmedical—specialists. Speech defects need daily care at home since correction in school cannot be given often enough due to the enormous case load. The necessary exercises are described in simple form. Psychological theories are omitted. The bibliography—as we find it so often in books by speech therapists—does not contain any material written by physicians.

PAUL J. MOSES, M.D.